

MAY -- 10/673,220
Client/Matter: 006911-0302822

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, and 13 have been amended, and claims 14-16 have been added.

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the indication that claim 13 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under §112, second paragraph. Also, Applicant respectfully acknowledges the indication that claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under §112, second paragraph and into independent form. To secure allowance of these claims, claims 3 and 13 have been amended to overcome the rejection under §112, second paragraph and claims 3 and 5 have been rewritten into independent form. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims should be allowable.

The disclosure is objected to because of several informalities. The disclosure has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions in order to correct these informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, and 13 have been amended for clarity purposes in order to overcome this rejection. Further, new claims 14-16 have been added to clarify that the locking element may be a roller or any other suitable structure. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Rogers, U.S. Patent No. 5,121,967. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rogers discloses a rocker recliner that includes rock blocking links 34, 36, 38 that prevent rocking of the cams relative to the base. These links 34, 36, 38 are moved into their actuated position by control link 60 which is associated with actuator shaft 52 via links 50 and 64. All of these links are pivotally interconnected to one another. None of these links are slideably connected to one another or include camming surfaces for camming engagement. Specifically, Rogers does not disclose or suggest a drive link being slidingly connected to a drive element for driving a locking element and slidingly connected to one of the rocker cam assemblies as recited in claim 1. Rogers does not disclose or suggest a drive link having a pair of cam surfaces for camming engagement with a drive element for driving

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a locking element as recited in claim 9. Rogers does not disclose or suggest a drive link having a pair of cam surfaces for camming engagement with one of the rocker cam assemblies as recited in claim 11. Also, Rogers does not disclose or suggest a guide link having a pair of cam surfaces for camming engagement with a first ottoman link as recited in claim 12.

The only slideable connection in Rogers appears to be between links 20, 22 and links 22, 14. However, these links are not structured for driving the blocking links 34, 36, 38. Rather, links 20, 22 are carrier links for mounting a seat and a backrest (see col. 2, lines 45-68).

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 9, 11, and 12 under Rogers is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 6-8, and 10 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 1 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter.

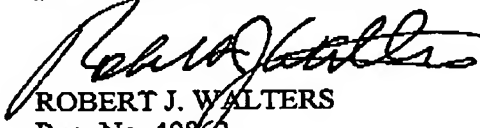
All rejections and objections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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